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Security Council

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Letter dated 1 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I attach my reply (see annex) to a letter dated 28 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations (S/2003/508), and I request you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council, to circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Adolfo **Aguilar Zinser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico

03-34366 (E) 010503

Annex to the letter dated 1 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 30 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

With reference to your letter of 28 April 2003 (S/2003/508), regarding the participation of non-members of the Security Council in the wrap-up meeting of the Council on 30 April 2003, and upon instructions from my Government, I would like to refer to the following issues, in my capacity as Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations.

First, allow me to reiterate the strong commitment of the Government of Mexico to the openness and transparency of the Council and the importance we attach to a more frequent and substantive interaction between Members and non-members of the Council. We have stated this in our letter addressed to the honourable Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, as Chair of the Asian Group for the month of April, and we have worked in different forums, including the Council, to make such interaction real and effective.

With this in mind and with the purpose of maximizing the use of our time in order to have a short but useful session, while at the same time seeking equitable representation of views from participants of all regions during the meeting, we have chosen a format already used with success in previous Council open meetings, including the wrap-up meetings held during 2002.

As you rightly mention in your letter, our proposal for regional groups to select two interested countries from the relevant region to participate in the session is merely a suggestion that cannot be interpreted as an "imposition", or qualified as an "illogical" or "arbitrary" measure since it does not preclude any Member State from participating in accordance with the appropriate procedures and practices of the Council. It is my understanding that the suggested procedure worked positively in the Asian Group since there were never more than two delegations interested in taking the floor during the wrap-up meeting.

To my knowledge, the delegation of India did not manifest any interest in participating. Had this been the case, Mexico would have ensured such participation, to which India is fully entitled.

Regarding such issues as the diverse composition and nature of the different regional groups, it is not incumbent upon the President of the Council to make any comments or decisions. We understand your views regarding representation from the Asian Group, as well as the fact that substantive issues are not within the scope of its discussions. That should not represent a problem in this case since, as you correctly note in your letter, countries selected by regional groups are not expected to represent regional positions, precisely in order to avoid any contradiction with the mandates of the groups.

It is true that wrap-up meetings have focused mainly on reviewing the work of the Council during the month. In so doing, it has been necessary to identify a common factor and to encompass the broadest possible range of issues considered

by the Council during the month under a comprehensive theme in order to have a coherent and focused discussion. The theme "The role of the United Nations in post-conflict situations" covers the work of the Council during the month of April, in particular concerning the situation in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Kosovo and Sierra Leone, as outlined in the non-paper which was circulated regarding the wrap-up meeting. The subject becomes even more relevant in the context of ongoing discussions of the role of the United Nations in Iraq.

Finally, I would like to underline that the participation of Mexico in the Council will continue to be guided by an open and transparent commitment to address any issue relevant to the maintenance of peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

I sincerely hope the above clarifications have solved your concerns and questions. The letter you addressed to me in my capacity as President of the Council on 28 April 2003 has been circulated as a document of the Council, as you requested (see S/2003/508).

(*Signed*) Adolfo **Aguilar Zinser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations